

12TH GRADE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Palmdale Aerospace Academy, in partnership with the community, provides an exceptional education that prepares students to be successful members of our democratic society. The Palmdale Aerospace Academy prepares its graduates for college and careers in the 21st century, aligned with workforce needs in the local area and beyond. The educational program emphasizes science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills and views academics through the lens of aerospace. Challenging projects, hands-on activities and collaborative learning engage student interest to maximize learning potential. The Palmdale Aerospace Academy thrives through partnership with employers who rely on STEM experts, the City of Palmdale, the Palmdale School District and others who help develop an innovative, relevant educational option. The graduation requirements encompass the knowledge, abilities, and experience necessary to develop the essential aptitudes and skills of successful participants in today's society in the 21st century: critical thinking and problem solving, clear and persuasive communication, collaboration and leading with influence, agility and adaptability, initiative and entrepreneurialism, accessing and analyzing information, and curiosity and imagination. Students are provided with a world-class education tailored according to their individual needs and capabilities. It is one that develops within them the necessary skills requisite to pursue a career path in STEM fields. Students must demonstrate proficiency in STEM content, literacy, and numeracy. Those students not proficient will be provided academic interventions as necessary and appropriate.

Students enrolled at The Palmdale Aerospace Academy will be enrolled in a STEM elective every year.

These graduation requirements constitute the Academy's minimum standard for graduation, and are written in keeping with California Education code and UC entry requirements, otherwise known as A-G. In addition to the following graduation requirements, students must participate in all other state and federally mandated assessments.

In order to earn a high school diploma from The Palmdale Aerospace Academy, students must earn a minimum of the following number of credits in each subject domain:

English.....	4 years, 40 credits
Mathematics.....	3 years, 30 credits
Social Science.....	3 years, 30 credits
Laboratory Science.....	3 years, 30 credits
World Language Other than English.....	2 years, 20 credits
Visual/Performing Arts.....	1 year, 10 credits
Health.....	0.5 year, 5 credits
College Preparatory/STEM Elective.....	3 years, 30 credits
General Electives	3.5 years, 35 credits

Students must earn at least 230 credits in order to earn a diploma from the Academy. It is imperative that students make appropriate academic progress each year so that they are able to remain at the Academy in good standing. Students falling behind in credits must enroll in an appropriate summer program in order to “catch up” or risk losing their eligibility to graduate.

